

ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

March 4, 1999

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

Jim Kinsinger called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Barker, Susan Barron, Ray Betts, Shawn Burke, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Gerald DePoorter, Joe Downey, Victor Holm, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Bryan Taylor / Steve Gunderson, Jeremy Karpatkin, Tim Rehder

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Aluisi, Derek Dye, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, David Navarro, Linda Sikkema / Joe Legare

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Brian Mathis (Kaiser-Hill); Kenneth Werth (citizen); Terje Langeland (Colorado Daily); Mariane Anderson (DOE); Travis Roberts (citizen); Rob Henneke (EPA); Mike Stenhouse (QuantiSci); Anna Martinez (DOE); Alan Trenary (citizen); Colburn Kennedy (Kaiser-Hill); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Brady Wilson (CAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments were received.

REGULATOR UPDATE (CDPHE): Steve Gunderson with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment gave an update on Rocky Flats issues the Department is following:

- **Building 779 Decommissioning.** Of the approximately 133 gloveboxes in this building, all but eight have been removed, and ductwork removal begins soon. An attached building (729) is scheduled for demolition in the spring, with 779 being demolished later in the year.
- **Trench 1.** A five-gallon can, which had been discovered after excavation work was complete, was removed. Following surveys to check for other items, three items were found (a "no smoking" sign, rebar and wiring). These were also removed. Filling the trench can now be completed, followed by dismantling of the tent covering the trench. So far there is no offsite location available for the drums

of depleted uranium that were excavated, as they were contaminated with solvents and PCBs.

- **Interim TRU Waste Storage.** DOE is continuing to work on cost estimates for a new butler building to provide interim storage of TRU waste, as well as possible upgrades to existing buildings onsite. Building 460 is being considered.
- **Building Rubble.** DOE and regulators have begun meetings with local officials and stakeholders to discuss options for disposing of clean building rubble, and soon will draft a RFCA Standard Operating Protocol document to cover those issues.
- **FY01 and Outyear Milestones and Targets.** The site and regulators will begin discussions in the next couple of months to update later year milestones and targets, and will request input from the Board.
- **Water Working Group.** The group gave tentative approval for direct discharge of water from the B-series ponds, rather than pumping water through the A-series ponds first. Final details still need to be resolved. CDPHE is reviewing plutonium building sanitary drains.
- **NPDES Permit.** Final work on the language of this permit continues. A hearing about a proposed modification for Segment 5 of Walnut Creek is scheduled to go before the Water Quality Control Commission in May.
- **DPP Modification.** A draft modification, discussing removal of certain types of fixed equipment, is now being released for public comment.

DISCUSSION ON FUTURE IMPLICATIONS RELATING TO THE RECENT

WORKER CONTAMINATION: Building 779 is currently undergoing D&D activities as a demonstration project. On February 2, while performing an activity considered to be routine for site deactivation, a worker was cutting out interior components from a glovebox with a portable band saw through the glove ports. This worker had been working continuously on the project for over an hour, and had on 4-5 layers of gloves. The gloves sometimes reduce hand strength. The worker, while repositioning the saw and holding the blade in one hand, accidentally triggered the switch and turned on the saw. He received a cut through the gloves to his left index finger, which went through to the bone and severed a tendon in his finger. He was moved to the medical facility onsite for treatment, his wound was found to be contaminated, and decontamination was performed at that time. Because of the severity of the wound, the worker was advised to see a hand specialist. A doctor was found offsite; the worker was transported to the doctor's office where his injury was successfully treated. The contamination dose to the individual is believed to be less than 1 Rem. This is based on a count of the wound itself. Bioassay and urine analysis tests were performed, but it not yet known whether there was any uptake of contamination to the worker; results are expected within approximately one month. The worker's condition will continue to be monitored for several months.

Following the incident, all cutting operations across the site were shut down for several days while a review was performed. One action taken to help ensure no repeat of this

incident is to have either the vendors that provide saws, or site electricians, install a safety switch on each saw so the trigger cannot be activated accidentally. Also, specific areas of the saw will be painted red to aid with identification of hazard areas; different types of Kevlar gloves will be used which are stronger but without significantly affecting or impairing movement for workers; and finally, additional safety training will be instituted. In the future, workers will perform these operations in a different manner, using a "hood" type device that the workers function outside of. In addition, the site has issued an RFP for a robotics-type assembly to perform some of this work. These changes are expected to happen within about a year.

COMRAD PROPOSAL DISCUSSION: The Community Radiation Monitoring Program (COMRAD) was started in the early 1990s between DOE and local communities to provide radiation monitoring in the communities surrounding Rocky Flats. Local school science teachers manage the stations, and data collected is sent to an EPA laboratory for analysis. This was funded through a direct grant with DOE, providing funding to a company that performed maintenance and upkeep to the monitoring stations, as well as funds that went to contract with the teachers who manage the stations. DOE is no longer able to continue this as a direct grant, and needs to find another funding mechanism to continue the COMRAD program. The current grants for this program expire in May. Since CAB's grant is in place, it was suggested that the grant funds for COMRAD could be passed-through CAB. The Board would be responsible primarily for approving the RFPs and contracts, and beyond that would need only staff time to monitor the grant, expenditures, invoices, and contract compliance. This would be set up similar to the Soil Action Levels Oversight Panel review, where a group of individuals from local communities would develop contracts and the scope of work, but CAB provides final approval and passes through the funding. The Board tentatively agreed to go forward with this idea. An RFP will be provided for the Board's review and approval at its April 1 meeting.

SELECT DATE FOR WIPP TOUR: Erin Rogers continues to work on setting up a date for CAB and others to tour the WIPP site. The Board is looking at possible dates in May; one date was proposed at this meeting — May 7-8. Erin will look into the possibility of several Monday dates in May. That would involve leaving on a Sunday evening and conducting the tour on a Monday. She will also ask about possible dates in June. A list of dates will be brought to the Board for selection at the next meeting.

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON SOLAR PONDS PLUME PROPOSED ACTION MEMORANDUM: A representative from the site reviewed questions and concerns brought up by Board members and the public at a previous meeting, where the Solar Ponds Plume proposed action plan was initially discussed. A document responding to the questions and concerns was submitted to the Board and included in the packet. Most of the concerns expressed were addressed in the written response. However, there were additional questions brought up about the quality assurance plan, audits of that plan, and

how the site would show that sampling protocols are being followed. The Proposed Action Memorandum document for the Solar Ponds Plume is being drafted now, and will be released for public comment in April or May. A small group of Board members will convene for a few meetings to discuss the document, review responses to its concerns, and draft a recommendation for the Board to submit.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Comment: Kenneth Werth: Similar to the Solar Ponds Plume, what about your sanitary landfill at the site? Are there any plumes of contaminants coming off the sanitary landfill at Rocky Flats?

Response: John Rampe: Very little, very localized and very low level. We do occasionally get whispers, but not much more than that, of heavy metals and some VOCs, but they are isolated from the Solar Ponds Plume. There is a pond right below the landfill. You can detect some of these things at very low levels in that seep above the pond. By the time they get to the pond, we can't even find those contaminants.

Comment: Alan Trenary: I want to commend DOE and Kaiser-Hill for the work they are doing. I feel confident they are doing a good job. Since I live near the site, and they are gearing up to do major work, I'm curious as to how the insurance industry views what would happen if there were a major incident at Rocky Flats. Also, whether this has been brought forward to the people who hold the liability insurance, homeowners insurance for property owners in the area. If there were an accident or event at Rocky Flats that contaminated private land in the area, would normal homeowners' insurance cover that, or would DOE or some other agency cover the cost associated with returning the homes and land to their former state.

Response: John Rampe: The federal government does not have insurance per se, and we don't take out insurance policies. The contractor does, they are insured, although I don't know to what extent, for these types of accidents. The federal government and presumably the contractor would be liable for cleanup actions under CERCLA. I'm not sure that goes to payment of private damages, but it does apply to cleanup of property, and provision of alternate drinking water sources, etc. It's focused more on remediation rather than remuneration.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON LOW LEVEL WASTE ISSUES: Colburn Kennedy from the site gave a brief presentation on low level waste (LLW) and low level mixed waste (LLMW). About 80 percent of all waste at Rocky Flats is categorized as either low level or low level mixed waste. The goal for FY99 is to reduce the inventory of LLW/LLMW to zero, which means an additional 2,630 cubic meters must still be shipped to the Nevada Test Site. As of December 31, the site recorded shipments totaling

approximately 5,500 cubic meters of waste, and 55 percent of that was pondcrete. Some of the waste still requires characterization and issues need to be resolved so that it will meet waste acceptance criteria at the disposal sites. The site wants to remove all pondcrete this fiscal year. The site has contracts with both the Nevada Test Site and Envirocare for disposal of LLW and LLMW, respectively. NTS is designated as a LLW acceptance facility; the Hanford site is being considered as a possible site to accept LLMW.

Another issue is that the site needs to find facilities that will accept waste with activities greater than 10 nanocuries per gram (nCi/g). Treatment options for certain LLMW is also an issue; new treatment methods must be developed before much of this waste can be disposed. Right now, the site has approximately 5,000 cubic meters of waste categorized as being greater than 10 nanocuries per gram. A facility in Texas, operated by Waste Control Specialists, is one option for disposal, as well as a proposed site in Deer Trail, Colorado. The Deer Trail facility is still going through the permitting process. In response to a question, Kennedy stated that blending - or diluting - the waste is an option, but there is much work and coordination that would need to be done with the regulators in order to make that work. A site like the Deer Trail facility must go through both the RCRA permitting process as well as the NEPA process, in addition to applying for and receiving a radioactive materials license. The NEPA process would also cover issues regarding transport of the waste from Rocky Flats to the proposed facility.

Next, Board members identified topics and issues they would like to have clarified regarding disposal options for LLW and LLMW, summarized below:

- Information on disposal criteria and regulations for current disposal sites
- The effectiveness of current waste disposal sites to contain the wastes without release of contaminants to the environment
- Information on long-term stewardship, and development of long-term surveillance and monitoring plans for sites currently disposing of LLW/LLMW
- Regulations governing transportation of radiological wastes, such as notification requirements, route designation, and emergency preparedness
- Information on interstate waste sharing compacts
- Equity issues regarding current and potential disposal facilities, including information on both environmental justice and interstate equity
- Information on alternatives to disposal, such as state-of-the-art monitored and retrievable storage facilities and transmutation
- Technologies being considered for treatment of LLMW when it does not meet waste acceptance criteria
- Contingencies for handling greater-than-expected volumes of LLW/LLMW, particularly if action levels are lowered
- Information on waste classifications A through E
- Detailed information on the expected future generation of low level and low level mixed waste with activities greater than 10 nanocuries per gram

The site was asked to provide responses to the Board's requests in time for the April 1 CAB meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Committee. The Board unanimously agreed to spend up to \$5,000 for a personnel consultant to review staff salaries and benefits.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: March 15, 1999, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. (study session)

Location: College Hill Library, Front Range Community College, 3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster

Agenda: Building rubble follow-up and recommendation

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:

1. Get final information on WIPP tour dates in May and Jun - Erin Rogers
2. Meet as group to draft recommendation and comments on Solar Ponds Plume Proposed Action Memorandum - Select Board members

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:25 P.M. *

(* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in CAB office.)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Mary Harlow, Secretary
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and

provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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